CAMP WHITE
# GRENADE II

MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

"Preserving the Past for the Future"

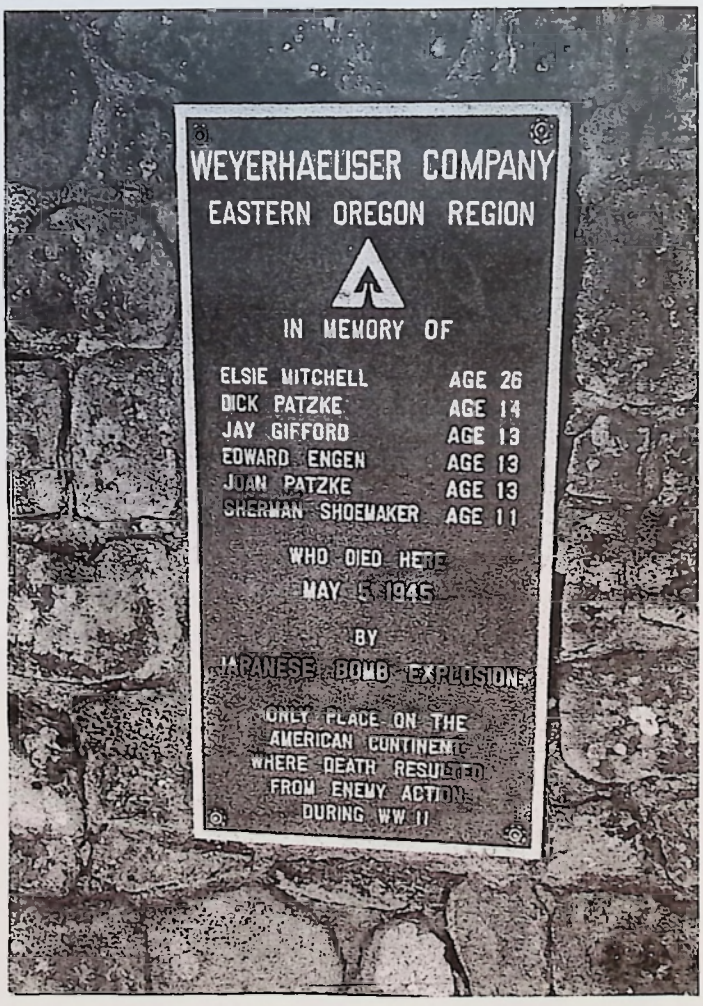
VOLUME 5, NO. 4 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CAMP WHITE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION DECEMBER 2000

# OTHER LOSSES

Richard Barnhouse and three members of his Forest Service road crew had just pulled their grader out of a mud hole when a motorist in an early model sedan asked him about the fishing and road conditions in the area. It was May 6, 1945, the war in Europe was near an end (May 8, 1945) and Barnhouse's day was looking a little better now that the grader was operable.

Richard advised the motorist, Archie Mitchell, that the road was impassable and the creek would not be suitable for fishing as the water was not clear. Barnhouse noticed that the passengers in the Mitchell vehicle, a young woman and five children had exited the car and proceeded towards Leonard Creek some 50 yards away.

The day before, Archie, the new pastor of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in Bly, Oregon had decided with his wife, Elyse, to take five young members of their church on a fishing trip. Elyse had originally thought about staying home as her five months pregnancy had made her ill. The children, Sherman Shoemaker, 11, Jay Gifford, 13, Edward Engen, 13, Dick Patzke, 14, and Joan Patzke, 13, were all eager to go. The boys were members of the same Boy Scout troop and great friends.




As the Mitchell vehicle proceeded, Barnhouse followed with the grader. He noticed that the young lady and children had gathered in a group and appeared to be looking at something. As Mitchell drove to a suitable parking location, Archie heard his wife call to him "look what I found, dear."

At about this moment, a loud explosion was heard, and the four men rushed to the scene. All of the victims were severely injured and scattered about a large hole three feet across and three feet deep. Elyse's clothes had ignited and Archie put the fire out with his bare hands. With the exception of Joan Patzke, the children died instantly. By the end of the day, everyone in the gathering would be dead.

This small church group would be the only victims of direct enemy action within the continental limits of the United States during WWII. They had died as the result of a Japanese balloon bomb, one of several thousand sent on the jet stream by Japan during the War.

*(see inside page)*

**Our 3rd Birthday Cake & MG Balough**

## Commander's Corner

We had one of the best ever Veterans Days here at the VA Domiciliary along with our Museum's 3rd Birthday. One hundred guests signed our register that Saturday. 91st Division Commanding General Daniel Balough was Guest speaker and cake cutter. He spoke with a variety of veterans stationed at the Dom, and from outlying areas of the valley. He brought his very outstanding band complete with bagpipes. I want to thank CWO Gross for doing such a great job with his band.

CPT Bruce Hutchison, the 91st Division Publicity Officer, was a great boost to the CWHA, his efforts insure good future turn outs at the Museum..

CWO Plank, the 91st Division's Curator was given a complete tour of the Museum and Storage Area by CWHA's Collections Clerk, Swanee Inlow. All were quite impressed by our Museum.

Many thanks to all who helped make this day a success.

AL INLOW, COMMANDER
Camp White Historical Association & Museum


# THE GRENADE II

**The *Grenade II* is the official newsletter of the Camp White Historical Association and Museum.**

**Executive Editor, ....Al Inlow**
**Managing Editor, Ann Griffin**
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**The *Grenade* accepts suggestions and contributions from readers.**
**If you have a story idea or appropriate event to promote, write**
**Ann Griffin at PO Box 2373, White City, OR 97503**


## The 91st Division Artillery

The troops were on their way. All they knew when they left was th for either Europe or Africa. The only clues they had to their where new time zone was reached and they had to reset their watches. A sergeant of Battery A of the 348th, using only a checkerboard and a accurate data on the ship's location that the open-mouthed c fi the ship's instruments and help with the navigation.

No submarines appeared and no ships sunk. At a maximum speed days to reach Africa. First order of business was, of course, mail c found out they were now fathers. Their mission in Africa was two foremost, was amphibious training. Their other duty was a little pi counterespionage. Since military intelligence was fully aware that natives were spies, when the men went into town they could blab a their planned invasion of Southern France. This little bit of misinf been responsible for the relative success of the actual invasion of N

Amphibious training was not difficult for the artillery. First they l of their transport. An AKA is a supply ship. An APA carries men. Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel. A Dukw (duck) is a 2-½ ton c travel on land or water. Each battalion had a TQM (Transport Qu responsibility was to ensure that loading was done so that unloadi accomplished in the proper order. Of course, nobody was expecti step off a transport and onto a dry sandy beach. Trucks and jeeps "waterproofed". Lubrication points, electrical connections, gear c system were coated with a heavy, salt water resistant grease. Air c and a long tube was grease-sealed to the air intake of the carburetc led to a part of the vehicle that would stay above water. A similar the air vent of the gasoline tank cap. If it kept running it was OK.

During their maneuvers the 916th lost a howitzer when rough surf This was the only serious mishap during early amphibious training modified WWI models of 155mm howitzers were replaced with tl artillery air sections got several new style observation planes. Tin they got the Alert to Italy before the 916th and 361st training was c training was hastily completed, final maneuvers before action wer Tarheel Operation, a naval blunder if ever there was one.

As the convoy waited for daylight, Dukws were sent shoreward. convoy had drifted out to sea an extra 10-12 miles. Dukws aren't transports passed the dukws with their green-faced passengers. O defective pump and slowly sank. The crew was taken aboard a la by. A 347th Dukw developed motor trouble and its steering mech Dukw with a dead motor but workable rudder was lashed to it anc make it to shore, only 20 miles off target. Somehow everyone m land maneuvers were no problem.

Now it was time to ship to Naples, and join the 5th Army in Italy

### TAPS

*If you know of a member passing, please contact us and we will add t*

Charlie White-One of the founders of CWHA 9
October 6, 2000
Dr. Ralph Hibs- Donor
October 1, 2000
Dick VanTassel, "C" Battery 347 FAB
August 2000

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*THE SOLDIER*

TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS,
HE LIVED ALL ALONE,
IN A ONE BEDROOM HOUSE MADE OF
PLASTER AND STONE.

I HAD COME DOWN THE CHIMNEY
WITH PRESENTS TO GIVE,
AND TO SEE JUST WHO
IN THIS HOME DID LIVE.

I LOOKED ALL ABOUT,
A STRANGE SIGHT I DID SEE,
NO TINSEL, NO PRESENTS,
NOT EVEN A TREE.

NO STOCKING BY MANTLE,
JUST BOOTS FILLED WITH SAND,
ON THE WALL HUNG PICTURES
OF FAR DISTANT LANDS.

WITH MEDALS AND BADGES,
AWARDS OF ALL KINDS,
A SOBER THOUGHT
CAME THROUGH MY MIND.

FOR THIS HOUSE WAS DIFFERENT,
IT WAS DARK AND DREARY,
I FOUND THE HOME OF A SOLDIER,
ONCE I COULD SEE CLEARLY.

THE SOLDIER LAY SLEEPING,
SILENT, ALONE,
CURLED UP ON THE FLOOR
IN THIS ONE BEDROOM HOME.

THE FACE WAS SO GENTLE,
THE ROOM IN SUCH DISORDER,
NOT HOW I PICTURED
A UNITED STATES SOLDIER.

WAS THIS THE HERO
OF WHOM I'D JUST READ?
CURLED UP ON A PONCHO,
THE FLOOR FOR A BED?

I REALIZED THE FAMILIES
THAT I SAW THIS NIGHT,
OWED THEIR LIVES TO THESE SOLDIERS
WHO WERE WILLING TO FIGHT.

SOON ROUND THE WORLD,
THE CHILDREN WOULD PLAY,
AND GROWNUPS WOULD CELEBRATE A BRIGHT
CHRISTMAS DAY.

THEY ALL ENJOYED FREEDOM
EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR,
BECAUSE OF THE SOLDIERS,
LIKE THE ONE LYING HERE.

I COULDN'T HELP WONDER
HOW MANY LAY ALONE,
ON A COLD CHRISTMAS EVE
IN A LAND FAR FROM HOME.

THE VERY THOUGHT
BROUGHT A TEAR TO MY EYE,
I DROPPED TO MY KNEES
AND STARTED TO CRY.

THE SOLDIER AWAKENED
AND I HEARD A ROUGH VOICE,
"SANTA DON'T CRY,
THIS LIFE IS MY CHOICE;

I FIGHT FOR FREEDOM,
I DON'T ASK FOR MORE,
MY LIFE IS MY GOD,
MY COUNTRY, MY CORPS."

THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER
AND DRIFTED TO SLEEP,
I COULDN'T CONTROL IT,
I CONTINUED TO WEEP.

I KEPT WATCH FOR HOURS,
SO SILENT AND STILL
AND WE BOTH SHIVERED
FROM THE COLD NIGHT'S CHILL.

I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE
ON THAT COLD, DARK NIGHT,
THIS GUARDIAN OF HONOR
SO WILLING TO FIGHT.

THEN THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER,
WITH A VOICE SOFT AND PURE,
WHISPERED, "CARRY ON SANTA,
IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY, ALL IS SECURE."

ONE LOOK AT MY WATCH,
AND I KNEW HE WAS RIGHT.
"MERRY CHRISTMAS MY FRIEND,
AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT."

This poem was written by a Marine stationed in Okinawa, Japan. The following is his request. I think it is reasonable....

PLEASE. Would you do me the kind favor of sending this to as many people as you can? Christmas will be coming soon and some credit is due to our U.S. service men and women for our being able to celebrate these festivities. Let's try in this small way to pay a tiny bit of what we owe. Make people stop and think of our heroes, living and dead, who sacrificed themselves for us. Please, do your small part to plant this small seed.

Today, travelers may visit the site of the explosion which Weyerhaeuser Timber Company has set aside as a monument. It is located just east of Bly, Oregon north of Highway 140.

*Del Hussey*

*m to our Taps.*

Division

## OTHER LOSSES *(continued)*

This would not be the only tragedy in Archie Mitchell's life. In 1962 he would be kidnapped by the Viet Cong while serving as a missionary in Vietnam. He would never be heard from again.

# VOLUNTEER CORNER

Dave Harrington joined the Army in May of 1978. He was sent to Ft. Lewis, Washington, were he served as a Division Recon Scout for the 9th Division. In December 1980 he went to Sorgal, Germany were he was a guard on a nuclear warhead site. He was later transferred to Ft. Ord, California were he served the 7th Division as a rifleman in C Co. 1st BN 32nd Infantry.

Back in Germany again, in the 2nd Armor Div. he served with C Co. 3rd BN 41st Infantry Reg were he was promoted to Staff Sergeant. His two children were born in Germany. In May 1986 his battalion swapped places with 1st BN 41 INF REG in Ft. Hood, Texas. In 1987 he was sent to Ft. Benning, Georgia to be an Instructor on the Bradley Fighting Vehicle. In 1989 he was assigned as an Army Recruiter in Oak Harbor, Washington.

In 1992 he went to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California were he went to the Bradley Fighting Vehicle Master Gunner course. He retired from the Army April 1, 1994. He worked with his father in underground construction. After his father passed away in 1996 he got his own construction license and built houses. He now attends RCC majoring in Criminal Justice with a goal of being a probation officer. In his spare time he works at the Museum. He is currently the Secretary for CWHA.

**CAMP WHITE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION & MUSEUM**
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28 NOV
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